

Occurrence of a Rare Skate in the Western North Atlantic

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CAPTURES of *Dactylobatus armatus* Bean and Weed (1909), a bizarre skate and only known member of its genus, have previously been limited to five specimens. The original account was based on two syntypes, an immature male, 278 mm total length (TL), USNM 62914, Albatross Sta. 2624, 32°36' N, 77°29' W, 472 meters; and a female, 264 mm TL, USNM 62915, Albatross Sta. 2666, 30°47'30" N, 79°49' W, 494 meters. Bigelow and Schroeder (1953) gave a detailed description of Bean and Weed's immature male. The next reported captures (Bigelow and Schroeder, 1965) were two females, one 316 mm TL, MCZ 42474, Silver Bay Sta. 3095, 28°23' N, 79°49' W, 338-348 meters; and the other, 250 mm TL, MCZ 43073, Silver Bay Sta. 3726, 29°42' N, 80°10' W, 338-348 meters. Recently, they (1968) reported another male, 263 mm TL, MCZ 45883, Oregon Sta. 5753, 29°29' N, 79°53' W, 667-695 meters.

This report adds six additional specimens collected from 1960-1965 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service exploratory fishing vessels *Silver Bay* and *Oregon I.* Available data are one female, 300 mm TL, Silver Bay Sta. 2074, 29°43' N, 80°07'30" W, 366-369 meters; two specimens, sex unknown, one 290 mm, the others length unknown, Silver Bay Sta. 3095, 28°23' N, 79°49' W, 338-347 meters; one female, 662 mm TL, USNM 202499, Silver Bay Sta. 5483, 27°40'30" N, 79°48' W, 371-366 meters; one specimen, sex and length unknown, Oregon Sta. 5232, 29°59'30" N, 80°08' W, 384-402 meters; and one specimen, sex and length unknown, Oregon Sta. 5265, 29°13' N, 79°56' W, 549 meters, now UF 12951, ♀, 184.2 TL, 300 fms.

Of the eleven specimens known, nine were captured between Vero Beach and St. Augustine, Florida in 338-695 meters, one off Georgia in 494 meters, and one off Charleston, South Carolina in 472 meters. The six specimens reported here do not extend the known range of the species.

The largest female (662 mm) is twice as long as the largest specimen previously reported (316 mm). Measurements comparable to those made by Bean and Weed (1909) and Bigelow and Schroeder (1953) revealed no significant differences in body pro-

portions or other morphological characteristics. The reproductive system of this large female resembled that of nearly mature developmental stages of *Raja erinacea* described by Richards, Merri-man and Calhoun (1963). The uterus, oviduct, and shell glands were well developed, and the ovaries contained small pale globules. The apparent near maturity of this 662 mm specimen indicates that *Dactylobatus armatus* is one of the moderately large skates.

LITERATURE CITED

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